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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
12 Plaintiff,
13 v.
14 APPROXIMATELY \$13,900.00 IN
U.S. CURRENCY,
15 Defendant.
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No 2:22-cv-1754 MCE DB

FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

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18 This matter came before the Honorable Magistrate Judge Deborah Barnes on the United States' *ex*
19 *parte* motion for default judgment. There was no appearance by or on behalf of any other person or
20 entity claiming an interest in the above-captioned defendant currency to oppose the United States'
21 motion. Based on the United States' motion and the files and records of the court, THE COURT FINDS
22 as follows:

- 23 1. This action arose out of a Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* filed October 5, 2022.
24 2. The United States has moved this Court, pursuant to Local Rule 540, for entry of default
25 judgment of forfeiture against potential claimants James Helm, Natasha Langenfeld, and Charles Smith.
26 3. The United States has shown that a complaint for forfeiture was filed; that potential
27 claimants James Helm, Natasha Langenfeld, and Charles Smith received notice of the forfeiture action;

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1 that any and all other unknown potential claimants have been served by publication; and that grounds
2 exist for entry of a final judgment of forfeiture.

3 Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED as follows:

- 4 1. That James Helm, Natasha Langenfeld, and Charles Smith be held in default;
- 5 2. That the United States' motion for default judgment and final judgment of forfeiture be
6 granted;
- 7 3. That judgment by default be entered against any right, title, or interest of potential
8 claimants James Helm, Natasha Langenfeld, and Charles Smith in the defendant currency referenced in
9 the above caption;
- 10 4. That a final judgment be entered, forfeiting all right, title, and interest in the defendant
11 currency to the United States, to be disposed of according to law;
- 12 5. That the Default Judgment and Final Judgment of Forfeiture lodged herein be signed by
13 the Honorable Morrison C. England, Jr. and filed by the Clerk of the Court.

14 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the
15 case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days after being served with
16 these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections with the court and serve a
17 copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings
18 and Recommendations." Any reply to the objections shall be served and filed within fourteen days after
19 service of the objections. The parties are advised that failure to file objections within the
20 specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153
21 (9th Cir. 1991).

22 Dated: December 18, 2023

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25 
26 DEBORAH BARNES
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

27 DLB:6
28 DB/orders/orders.civil/USv\$13,900.1754.f&rs